

REMARKS

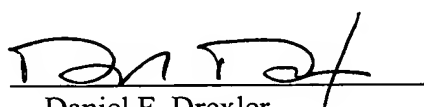
By way of an Office Communication dated June 27, 2003, the Examiner requires a restriction of the claims to one of the following claim groups: (1) claims 1-6, allegedly drawn to a process; and (2) claims 7-17, allegedly drawn to an apparatus. The Examiner contends that the claim groups represent distinct inventions and thus requires restriction to one of the indicated groupings for examination on the merits.

In response to the outstanding office action, Applicant herein elects, without traverse, group number one (1) directed toward claims 1-6 for prosecution on the merits. Correspondingly, non-elected claims 7-17 are canceled as being directed to non-elected claims. Applicant, however, reserves the right to pursue the non-elected claims in related applications without prejudice in respect of the present amendment or otherwise.

It is believed that the foregoing is fully responsive to the present office action and that the claims are allowable to Applicant. Consideration of the application and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorneys at the below-indicated telephone number regarding this response or otherwise concerning the present application. Please charge any required fees for this response, or otherwise concerning the present application, to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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